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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this Application, withdrawal of the rejection, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the above amendments and remarks that follow.

Claims 31-43 are pending in the application. Claim 31 has been amended only to clarify the present invention. This amendment should not be interpreted as acquiescence to any claim rejection of record. New Claims 41-43 have been added. Support for the claim amendment and new claims may be found generally throughout the specification and particularly, for example, on page 6. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 31 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 31-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the central core molecule, R, is allegedly not defined. In order to expedite prosecution, Claim 31 has been amended to clarify that the central core molecule can be a polyol or amino acid. As noted in new Claim 43, exemplary polyols include glycerol, pentaerythritol and sorbitol. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 6, where branched polymers comprising central branched core moieties are described. As noted therein, the central branched moiety can be derived from amino acids, such as lysine, or various polyols. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are clearly defined and request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions in order to expedite examination of this case. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

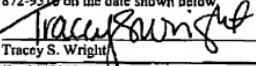
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